

sive height. The precipice faced northward, and thus was shaded most of the day. The fissure collected moisture from films of water seeping down the rock from above. The locality, at an altitude of about 3,500 ft, is often shrouded in cloud.

Saxifraga Aizoön is generally a calciphile. Hence it is surprising that it should grow anywhere on the Presidential Range in New Hampshire where limestone is unknown⁴. In an area as well botanized as Mt. Washington it is remarkable that the species could have remained this long undiscovered.

I obtained five plants from crowded colonies, taking great care to prevent uprooting adjacent rosettes. The collection was donated recently to the Beal-Darlington Herbarium of Michigan State University, and one plant has been shared with the New England Botanical Club Herbarium.

⁴BILLINGS, M. P. et al. 1946. Geology of the Mt. Washington Quadrangle, New Hampshire. Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer. 57: 261-274, 1 pl.

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THE SAXIFRAGA AIZOÖN STATION REVISITED

The report by Dr. Churchill of *Saxifraga Aizoön* on Mt. Washington was so surprising that three of us decided to make an investigation. On July 29, 1967; A. R. Hodgdon, James Teeri, a graduate student at the University of New Hampshire, and I made a trip into Huntington Ravine. We were equipped with a good pair of field glasses but no rock-climbing gear. After some careful but fruitless searching we eventually located the *Saxifraga* well up on a cliff by means of field glasses. The plants were in full bloom and the colony appeared to be in the same condition as described by Churchill. After careful checking with a topographic map it appeared to us the elevation was close to 4500 ft.

Naturally we were eager to examine the colony at close range and with some effort were able to reach a point about

20 ft. below it. Even though two of us had some experience in rock-climbing, the last pitch was too much for us. It was steep and a rushing brook covered all the promising handholds. In a dry season, the ascent might have been easier, but it appeared to us that a rope would have been most desirable. We all felt considerable respect for Dr. Churchill's mountaineering ability.

From a vantage point across from a narrow shelf covered with vegetation, it was possible to study the surrounding area with care through the glasses and we felt that it was possible that there were other interesting plants in extremely hazardous or inaccessible sites in the gully. In any case we feel that Dr. Churchill's discovery was the most outstanding bit of botanizing on Mt. Washington in the past 50 years.

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SAXIFRAGA CERNUA IN NEW ENGLAND*

In the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, *Saxifraga cernua* L. has been found only in northern Minnesota.¹ Although it grows in the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec, this chiefly northwestern and Eurasian arctic plant was hitherto unexpected in the well explored mountains of New England. The unusual circumstance attending the discovery of *Saxifraga cernua* on Mount Washington in Cöos County, New Hampshire, is the subject of this report.

On July 20, 1939, one of the authors (Churchill) explored a deep ravine cut into the flank of Mount Washington and, while exploring a cliff face there, found *Saxifraga Aizoön*.² Near the *Saxifraga Aizoön* colony, Churchill also

¹FERNALD, M. L. 1950. Gray's Manual of Botany, Ed. 8. American Book Co., New York. 1632 P.

²CHURCHILL, J. A. 1967. *Saxifraga Aizoön* in New Hampshire, *Rhodora* 69: 483-484.

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